

**Canada's Statement to the United Nations
Commission on Sustainable Development – 18th Session**

Chemicals

The Government of Canada contributes to the chemical management goals under *Agenda 21* through its domestic, regional, and international work.

Canada completed the systematic examination of its inventory of domestic substances in commerce (a total of 23,000 substances) in 2006. Following this categorization exercise, 4,300 substances identified for further attention are being addressed, in priority, under Canada's Chemicals Management Plan. This Plan aims to protect human health and the environment from the risks posed by organic and inorganic chemicals, through: setting clear priorities for assessment and management; integrating our management approach to include industrial chemicals, consumer products, food, drugs and pesticides; strengthening industry's stewardship role for the chemicals they produce and use; and providing citizens with increased access to information on risks.

Canada recognizes the importance of cooperation at the global and regional levels and through key international institutions in order to meet commitments under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Canada supports international efforts towards a legally binding instrument for mercury, and is proud to have played a role in developing significant global agreements, such as the Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances and the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and in providing significant financial resources to assist capacity building, including the Canada POPs Fund. Canada also contributes to collective efforts under the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development* (OECD) to develop science and risk-based standards and guidelines that accelerate the sound management of chemicals globally and help avoid unnecessary duplication.

Going forward, Canada views international cooperation as increasingly vital to effective risk assessment and risk management of chemicals. Benefits can be achieved by sharing research, information, and the burden of work between jurisdictions, as well as through enhanced coordination and alignment of regulatory approaches. Improved cooperation may help all jurisdictions to address data gaps, and to make progress on challenges such as those related to chemicals in consumer goods and articles.

Canada believes that our multilateral efforts could most usefully focus on ensuring full and effective implementation of existing global agreements (including completion of outstanding compliance mechanisms) and in utilizing existing fora such as SAICM and the OECD to further joint work.

Canada recognizes that securing financial resources for chemicals management is a universal challenge. New approaches are needed to bridge the gap between funding needs identified by developing countries and developed countries' capacity to provide public, donor funds. Developing and developed countries should work together under the UNEP

Financing Options and other initiatives to find innovative ways to raise political awareness of chemical issues; to “mainstream” them into domestic policies and development plans; and to mobilize additional resources - both public and private and from domestic and international sources.

We look forward to working with the international community through existing forums, towards our shared 2020 goal for chemicals management.